

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 15201 131353Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 /011 W
-----075478 131357Z /53-R
P 131304Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9370

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STADIS//////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, OCON
SUBJECT: AF/ARA LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 217647; (B) CAIRO 13322

1. BOTH VITTORIO BROD AND I HAVE NOT SEEN ANY SPECIAL NEED FOR BROD TO ATTEND AF/ARA LABOR CONFERENCE, MAINLY BECAUSE OF ITS AFRICAN RATHER THAN NEAS FOCUS. LAST SUCH CONFERENCE IN DELHI, WHICH BROD ATTENDED, WAS INTERESTING FOR HIM, BUT FRANKLY OF MINIMAL USE TO POST OPERATIONS. AS YOU KNOW, WE DO HAVE A HEAVY WORKLOAD AND I AM AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE RELUCTANT TO RELEASE NEEDED OFFICERS FOR PURPOSES THAT HAVE LITTLE OR NO RELATIONSHIP TO POST PROGRAMS OR REQUIREMENTS. THE FACT THAT BROD WILL ALREADY BE ABSENT FROM CAIRO SEPTEMBER 20-24 ATTENDING EUR/NEA NARCOTICS COORDINATORS CONFERENCE IN ROME WAS, AS YOU RIGHTLY SURMISE, ANOTHER FACTOR IN MY DECISION.

2. BUT THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR MY RELUCTANCE IS THE CONTINUING NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF AFL/CIO TO DEVELOPING
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BETTER RELATIONS WITH EGYPTIAN LABOR LEADERS AND TO PROVIDING SOME NEEDED ASSISTANCE TO EGYPTIAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. I RESPECT AFL/CIO VIEWS, BUT THINK THEY ARE SHORTSIGHTED IN PRESENT SITUATION IN WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES IN EGYPT. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK ON WASHINGTON SIDE ABOUT DOING SOMETHING ABOUT AFL/CIO ATTITUDE, BUT PRECIOUS LITTLE HAS DEVELOPED. THOSE

ELEMENTS IN EGYPTIAN LABOR WHO WOULD LIKE BETTER RELATIONS WITH US HAVE BECOME PAINFULLY AWARE OF THIS. CONVERSELY, AFL/CIO INDIFFERENCE HAS STRENGTHENED LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN EGYPTIAN LABOR WHO OPPOSE ANY CLOSER TRADE UNION ASSOCIATION WITH THE US. AFL/CIO POSITION HAS MADE BROD'S LABOR JOB INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. WE WERE IN FACT ON THE VERGE OF SENDING A MESSAGE ON THE SUBJECT WHEN THE INVITATION TO EFL PRESIDENT SAAD AHMAD TO ATTEND AFL/CIO CONVENTION WAS RECEIVED TWO DAYS AGO (STATE 215729).

3. CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM WE FACE HERE, THIS SINGLE INVITATION IS HARDLY WORTH ANY GREAT AMOUNT OF FLAG WAVING. IT LOOKS MORE LIKE TOKENISM THAN A BREAKTHROUGH. MOREOVER, AFL/CIO CHOICE OF SAAD AHMAD WAS SCARCELY THE BEST (SEPTEL). NEVERTHELESSN IT IS A SMALL STEP FORWARD AND WE WELCOME IT IN THAT CONTEXT. UNLESS IT IS FOLLOVED BY A GENERALLY MORE FORTHCOMING AFL/CIO ATTITUDE TOWARD EGYPTIAN LABOR, IT WILL NOT MEAN MUCH.

4. IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR COMMENTS CITED REFTTEL A, I AM WILLING TO ACCEDE TO SAMUEL'S REQUEST TO HAVE BROD ATTEND AF/ARA LABOR CONFERENCE IN TUNIS. SINCE THERE IS LITTLE POINT TO BROD'S HAVING TO RETURN FROM ROME ON SEPTEMBER 25, HE WILL PROCEDD DIRECTLY TO TUNIS
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FROM ROME ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, TO BE PRESENT FOR FULL CONFERENCE. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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